

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

***Carol A. Murray, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

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**TOKEN USE TO END DECEMBER 31 ON NH TURNPIKE SYSTEM**

***UNDER STATE LAW SALES OF TOKENS CEASED ON SEPTEMBER 1***

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation reminds motorists that December 31, 2005 will be the last day NH Turnpike tokens will be accepted for transactions on the New Hampshire Turnpike System.

Under state law, sales of the tokens ceased on September 1 and can no longer be used to pay for a toll transaction as of January 1. Beginning in 2006, the two payment options at all facilities on the New Hampshire Turnpike System will be E-ZPass electronic tolling or cash. Attempting to use tokens for a toll transaction after December 31, 2005 will result in a toll system violation.

*New Hampshire Turnpike Token facts:*

- NH Turnpike Tokens were first authorized by the legislature in 1955
- Tokens are made of a brass and nickel alloy
- Token discounts ranged from 33% to 50% during their use
- Annual NHDOT cost to process tokens - \$750,000
- Average time for an attendant to sell a roll of tokens – 45 to 50 seconds
- Cost to the NHDOT to purchase – about 3.5 cents each
- Tokens purchased per NHDOT order – between 3 and 6 million.
- NHDOT cost to purchase 6 million tokens - \$225,000
- Tokens “lost” (not redeemed) annually – 2.38 million in FY 2004
- Percentage of motorists using tokens – 60% (currently 8.3%)
- Current NHDOT inventory of tokens – approximately 9 million

To learn more about E-ZPass, or to enroll in the program, call the New Hampshire E-ZPass Customer Service Center at 1-877-643-9727 (1-877-NHEZPAS) or visit the website at [www.ezpassnh.com](http://www.ezpassnh.com)